

December 28, 2000

## EXPANSION OF HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN FILIPINO VETERANS

**1. PURPOSE:** This Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides VHA policy concerning expansion of health care benefits for certain Filipino veterans in the United States (U.S.).

**2. BACKGROUND:** On October 27, 2000, Public Law 106-377, the Department of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, was enacted authorizing VA to provide hospital, nursing home and outpatient medical care to certain Filipino veterans in the same manner such care is provided to service-connected U.S. veterans.

**3. POLICY:** It is VHA policy that service-connected Filipino Commonwealth Army Veterans and those who were recognized by authority of the U.S. Army as belonging to organized Filipino Guerilla forces, who reside in the United States and are citizens or lawfully admitted for permanent residence, are now eligible for the care as provided in Public Law 106-377.

a. New Filipino Scouts are not covered by this change. **NOTE:** *Title 38 United States Code Section 1734 provides that the VA may provide care for a service-connected disability of New Filipino Scouts within the limits of VA facilities.*

b. Old Filipino Scouts were not affected by this change since they are already eligible for VA health care on the same basis as U.S. veterans.

### 4. ACTION

a. VA Field facilities must implement local policy reflecting this change, and ensure appropriate staff, beneficiaries, and Veterans Service Organizations are aware of this change.

b. Zero percent non-compensible service-connected Filipino Veterans must undergo a means test in the same manner as U.S. veterans in order to determine if they are required to pay a co-payment for care related to non-service connected conditions.

c. Filipino Commonwealth Army veterans and recognized Filipino Guerillas must be entered into the Veterans Health Information Systems Technology Architecture (VISTA) using the current eligibility code for Old Filipino Scouts. **NOTE:** *Future changes to VISTA will provide specific eligibility codes for each group.*

**5. REFERENCE:** Public Law 106-377, Section 501.

**THIS VHA DIRECTIVE EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2005**

**VHA DIRECTIVE 2000-052**  
**December 28, 2000**

**6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:** The Director, Health Administration Services (10C3) is responsible for the content of this Directive. Questions may be directed to 202-273-8300.

**7. RESCISSION:** This Directive will expire December 31, 2005.

S/ Frances Murphy, M.D. for  
Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.  
Under Secretary for Health

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